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Wenchell

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(54) **SURGICAL STAPLER**

(56) **References Cited**

(71) Applicant: **Covidien LP**, Mansfield, MA (US)

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(72) Inventor: **Thomas Wenchell**, Durham, CT (US)

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(73) Assignee: **Covidien LP**, Mansfield, MA (US)

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 247 days.

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A surgical fastener applying apparatus comprising a cartridge section having a cartridge containing a plurality of fasteners, an anvil section having an anvil for receiving the fasteners when advanced from the cartridge, the cartridge and anvil sections clamping tissue therebetween. The first and second cam members are movable within the cartridge section to fire the fasteners. A cam member supporting member fixed within the cartridge section has an upper surface on which the cam members are slidable. The upper surface of the cam member supporting member has a first upper surface portion on a first plane and a second lower surface portion in a different substantially parallel second plane such that the first and second cam members slide in offset planes on the upper surface to fire the fasteners.

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